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OUR WASHINGTON LETTERS

THE NATIONAL COMPROMISE AND  
Nebraska Question.  
LATEST MOVEMENT OF THE VAN BUREN  
Intention to Kill the Bill by an Amendment  
THE HON. MAKE WALSH TO HIS CONSTITUENT  
E.C., &c., &c.  
TELEGRAPHIC.  
THE VAN BURENITES AND THE NEBRASKA BILL  
AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED TO VOTAY ITS PAS-  
SAGE TO THE SENATE OF COLUMBIAN-TARI

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1858.—

Mr. Dean has returned from New York, and is understood to be the bearer of the ultimatum of the Van Buren Administration as regards the Nebraska bill. He is said to have discovered that all his friends in New York, Kansas, and Missouri, are opposed to this bill, and will only acquiesce upon its being amended so as to make it conform with respect to slavery given in their bearing upon the Territories of the United States.

The principle of the Nebraska bill, as it now reads, is the practical denial of the constitutional right of Congress to regulate slavery in the Territories.

to be separate upon the subject of slavery in the Territories. If this principle be correct, then it is contended that slavery in the District of Columbia is unconstitutional, because it exists wholly and entirely by direct law of Congress. The amendment which will be offered to the bill simply extends the principle to the District of Columbia, and thus repeal or abrogate all "distinct" laws, and consequently free all slaves in the District or territory. They hold this to be a logical consequence from which there is no escape. The North, it

But the Van Burenites forget that the constitution makes an exception in the case of the District of Columbia in regard to the Territories, all that can be found in

ment over them, is the clause authorizing Congress to make "needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property of the United States, and to exercise the general power over the public lands." In the case of the District of Columbia, however, the constitution declares:—"The Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such District."

The change which has come over certain Northern members within a few days, is observable on every hand. The Nebraska bill, in its present shape, is openly denounced, and members are now heard ridiculing the administration, who a week ago would have considered such course as high treason. Notwithstanding the attitude of the Union in favor of Judge Douglas's bill it is becoming certain but what the administration is on the verge of breaking down, and early action will probably

As for the recent resolutions passed by the Central Committee of Tammany Hall, they were drawn up in large measure only by John L. O'Sullivan, recently nominated for Portugal, to John Van Buren, Fowler, a delegate, to have them acted upon as public opinion in New York. Cochran's vote in their favor. Fowler and Prince, however, there. Meantime O'Sullivan acts

General Case will speak during the week on the  
marks bill; whilst he will give in his adhesion to  
principles it contains, he will at the same time exp  
is conviction that the introduction of the measure  
it timed.

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**Our Washington Co-respondence.**

The expositions in the House touching

act of opening the eyes and clearing the understandings of Senators, and the confirmation or rejection of the affair, reluctantly submitted to the Senate, is highly problematical. The history of some of the elements of this business would prove curious, instructive, and interesting. It is well

After much difficulty succeeded in obtaining more than a hundred thousand dollars from the same collection which gave George A. Gardner over a half million. This was done through the influence, agency, and peculiar exertions of Daniel Webster March and Edward Curtis. But this remarkable amount, it would appear, is by no means sufficient to such wealthy men as the present owners of

The Senator, Benjamin, from Louisiana, has a very large interest in this matter; but unfortunately he belongs to the whigs. Hence, after the demagogue godlike Webster, the parties cast about for the proper influences to operate upon "our President" and upon his constitutional advisers, with a view to favor the Garsy and Tehuantepec schemes, and oppose the Sloc grant. It is said that after raking

In New Hampshire, the right bowers of the Presidencials were  
from the persons of a Col. Whipple, Captain George, and  
the other persons of credit and renown, were found, were  
who were extensively "sweetened" in advance with  
promises of any contingent remainder that might  
thereafter come into existence. From the fact that the  
concocting arrangement, which secured the right  
and interests of Sloo and associates, has not been  
submitted to Senators, we cannot but infer that the

But when it is considered that Arnold Harris, co-proprietor of the proprietors of the *Union*, and owner of the *Whipple*, is the principal man in the movement at the White House and the Department of State, whether or not F. P. G., has been engaged by either of the parties in interest, it is just as impossible to ascertain.

Co. could not be brought to bear. Nevertheless, and notwithstanding the President and Governor of Maryland and Cushing seem to frown upon the operations of Sloo, Harris, Sykes & Co., they are, nevertheless, prosecuting the work with the greatest energy and industry; and it may be that before the Gallien treaty shall be ratified a plank road will be completed across Tehuantepec, "all despite my Lord the Cardinal." H

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1854.  
**The French Spoliation Bill—The Efforts to Pass it Through Congress.**  
 The agents engaged in prosecuting the French spoliation bill are again at work. The principal man in the concern is Mr. Sullivan, formerly a collector for paper with the departments, but of late

gress the propriety of passing the Spoilation bill, the principal argument being good dinners and plenty of wine." His fee and that of Mr. Caustin, another agent, is about three hundred thousand dollars—pay nothing of the cash down already received for the dinners, &c.

The great argument advanced by the bill is, that it will relieve the necessities of a large number of indigent females who lost their property by the seizures by the French; and another reason urged is the representation that the government of the United States have been indemnified by France for these losses, and that it is only common honor for this government now to pay over to the claimants.